

MINUTES
SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES COUNCIL
AUGUST 7, 2007
INDIAN CREEK CORRECTIONAL FACILITY
CHESAPEAKE, VIRGINIA

PATTY GILBERTSON
CHAIR

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kim Barnes, *Virginia Department of Health*
Joe Battle, *Consumer/Advocate*
JoAnn Burkholder, *Department of Education*
Angela Coleman, *Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program*
John Gibney, *Consumer/Advocate*
Patty Gilbertson, *Virginia Drug Court Association*
Wallace G. Harris, *Department of Social Services*
Hope Merrick, *Governor's Office on Substance Abuse Prevention*
Scott Reiner, *Department of Juvenile Justice*
Inge Tracy, *Department of Corrections*
William Williams, *Virginia Association of Community Services Boards/Treatment*

GUEST:

Mark Blackwell, *Substance Abuse and Addiction Recovery Alliance*

STAFF:

Lynette Bowser, *DMHMRSAS*
Marc Goldberg, *DMHMRSAS*
Mellie Randall, *DMHMRSAS*
Julie Truitt, *DMHMRSAS*

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

The meeting opened with Ms. Inge Tracy introducing Patricia Terrangi, Warden of the Indian Creek facility. Ms. Terrangi welcomed Council members and also introduced a welcoming team of Department of Corrections and Indian Creek Staff who were in attendance.

Ms. Gilbertson, Council Chair, thanked Ms. Terrangi for the hospitality extended to the council by the facility. The Council proceeded with introductions.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 15, 2007

A motion was made by John Gibney and seconded by Bo Harris to approve the minutes of May 15 meeting. The motion passed and the minutes were approved.

III. OLD BUSINESS

- A. MEDICAID UPDATE:** The Chair advised that a Council work group had met with DMAS staff and Council representative, Ms. Catherine Hancock, to review the expanded Medicaid regulations for substance abuse services. The group, consisting of Ms. Gilbertson, Dr. May, Mr. Williams, Mr. Walsh and staff Ms. Randall and Ms. Truitt met with Ms. Hancock on June 26 to discuss concerns about several regulation inconsistencies and the reimbursement rates. The majority of the major issues appear to have been resolved. It was noted that issues in reference to reimbursement rates will be reviewed during the next six months. The expanded Medicaid regulations have been approved and became effective July 1, 2007.

Further discussion: Mr. Will Williams indicated that he had received feedback from SA Directors that limits the feasibility accessing Medicaid because of the low reimbursement rates. Ms. Randall stated that DMAS will be undertaking a review of all the behavioral healthcare rates. The mental health and substance abuse rates will be reviewed and possibly restructured as a possible resolution. A suggestion was made that at the next meeting representatives from CSBs could report on how the Medicaid expansion is being implemented. Council members suggested that this matter remain on the agenda for future monitoring and discussion.

- B. JUDICIAL CONFERENCE UPDATE:** Representatives from the Council will provide a presentation at the annual Judicial Transportation Conference on August 16. Approximately 200 Judges participate in this mandatory conference. The presentation will include information on treatment, what is available, the cost, and the role of the Council. Ms. Coleman stated the Council's presentation is first on the agenda and that the judges are excited about the Council making the presentation. A copy of the presentation will be available on the Council's website.
- C. WHITE PAPER:** Staff presented a draft of the white paper that has been developed by a Council workgroup. The previous recommendation was that, upon completion, the white paper would be submitted to Commissioner Reinhard to have substance abuse services included as part of DMHMRSAS' ongoing transformation initiative.

Mr. Williams, Chair of the workgroup, noted that the document had been previously reviewed and recommended changes and deletions had been completed. It was noted that an additional educational component is required. JoAnn Burkholder agreed to help the committee edit this section.

A motion was made by John Gibney and seconded by Joe Battle to approve and finalize the draft with a caveat that Mellie Randall will work with JoAnn Burkholder to edit the educational section. The motion was carried.

The Chair stated that the development of the document came as a request from the Virginia Association of Community Services Board's (VACSB), Substance Abuse Services Council and the final copy will be sent to that group. A suggestion was made that a copy be sent to the State Board of the DMHMRSAS, and staff will inquire about getting the document on the agenda of a state board meeting in the near future.

Council further discussed the white paper as a major component of the 2007 Annual Report and Plan. The Chair stated that she has been able to secure a meeting with Secretary Tavenner on September 13. She has invited some Mr. Williams, Mr. Batten and Ms. Randall to join her at the meeting.

IV. TOUR OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE THERAPEUTIC COMMUNITY: Staff from the Indian Creek Correctional facility provided Council members with a tour of the therapeutic community at their facility.

V. CONTINUE OLD BUSINESS: There was no additional Old Business.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

A. JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT AND REVIEW COMMISSION STUDY

HJR683/SJR395: Mark Blackwell stated that there will be a preliminary report in December and that the final report is scheduled for completion in June of 2008. He will provide Council with a copy of the preliminary report. Mellie Randall stated that the JLARC staff have met with DMHMRSAS staff frequently, and they have scheduled meetings with ten CSBs throughout the Commonwealth. DMHMRSAS is in the process of providing annual data regarding the CSBs, utilization and costs. Ms. Randall stated that she is very impressed with Commission staff's dedication and emersion in this project, and offered the opinion that the report will be helpful. She further suggested that JLARC staff make a presentation about the study at the next Council meeting.

B. NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATORS (NCSL): Ms. Randall reported that NCSL is an organization that provides informational resources for state legislators. The organization has been focusing on addictions and has developed an addiction studies program. The Addiction Studies Program for the States solicited applications from states to participate in a team approach (legislators, executive branch policymakers, and senior staff) workshop. Virginia submitted an application and has been accepted to send a 12 member bi-partisan team to a workshop in May 2008. DMHMRSAS staff has been communicating with Secretary Tavenner's office and will be requesting that the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate select legislative members to participate on the NCSL team. A suggested list of possible executive branch attendees has already submitted to the appropriate cabinet

members. This is an interesting opportunity for key policy makers and executive branch leadership to identify and discuss key substance related issues in the State

- C. SASC REPORT AND PLAN – UNDERAGE DRINKING:** Members were provided with a draft report on the underage drinking component of the 2007 Annual Report and Plan. This would constitute the second part of the 2007 report to include a Council recommendation for a budget request. Ms. Merrick informed the Council that the VACSB Prevention Council will also be submitting a budget request for \$4.8 million per year. DMHMRSAS may also be requesting funding for this issue. The Chair suggested that Council should contact Delegate Poisson and Senator Herring in reference to discuss their support of the recommendation.

An additional budget request that has been suggested is Council's request for General Funds to support the staffing of the Council.

- D. REPORT – §2.2-2697 – REVIEW STATE AGENCY SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT PROGRAMS –** Ms. Randall stated that is a statutory requirement that the Council make a report on outcomes of treatment services that are provided by state agencies. The only agencies providing treatment services are DOC, DJJ and DMHMRSAS. Members were provided with a draft of the report and asked to provide any recommendations. The report is officially due to the Secretary on October 1.

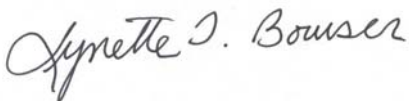
VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments

VIII. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be scheduled for mid to late October, preferably in the Charlottesville area.

Respectfully submitted,



Lynette T. Bowser